

# THE SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE

IRA L. BARE, Publisher.  
TERMS, \$1.25 IN ADVANCE.  
NORTH PLATTE, - - NEBRASKA

## VALUE OF COLD STORAGE.

A St. Louis dealer declared to a convention of egg and poultry men that "it is the cold-storage men who insure cheap eggs instead of high-priced ones, as some legislators would have us believe. Were it not for cold storage, eggs would go to one dollar a dozen in winter, and in some places would be absolutely unobtainable, says the Omaha Bee. Of course, cold storage boosts the price occasionally in the summer; but if it did not, farmers in that season could not get more than two or three cents a dozen for their eggs." No doubt much of this is strikingly true. The cold-storage plant is, indeed, a leveler of conditions, not only for eggs, but many other articles of produce, and, when properly conducted, with the purpose of serving natural needs and conditions, the cold storage becomes a most valuable economic factor. The trouble is that it is not always so conducted. Its potential harm equals its potential good, and, unfortunately, selfish men have exploited this fact to their own advantage and the consumers' detriment. It is this mismanagement of the cold-storage system itself against which remedial legislation is directed.

A poor working man told his wife on awakening one morning of a curious dream he had during the night, relates the Marquette Tribune. He dreamed he saw coming toward him, in order, four rats. The first one was very fat, and was followed by two very lean rats, the rear rat being blind. The dreamer was greatly perplexed as to what evil might follow; as it had been understood that to dream of rats denotes calamity. He appealed to his wife concerning this, but she could not help him. His son, who heard the father tell the story, volunteered to be the interpreter. "The fat rat," he said, "is the mail order firm which sells booze. The two lean rats are my mother and me, and the blind rat is yourself."

Vienna can boast a curious eccentric, who turns life upside down, a rich young Pole, who lives in sumptuous style, but always summons his servants by bugle call. His favorite pastime is driving an omnibus, attended like an ordinary busman, and, though he is said to spend a fortune each year in clothes, he wears no garment until it has been worn by his valet. He has astonished the guests at a ball by appearing in a costume of pure white, save for the shirt and tie, which were black. To complete his oddities, when dining, which he invariably does alone at a table d'hote, he reverses the usual order, beginning his meal with the sweets and ending with the soup.

A western woman lecturer on perfect love is suing for divorce. Her husband was mean enough to tell her she had better stay at home with her own family than to go abroad lecturing others, which, of course, constituted enough extreme cruelty to justify her plea.

Women in Washington got together and organized a successful war on the high car step. New York is the next city to capitulate to feminine demands. Two such signal victories will encourage feminine opposition to the high step everywhere.

A. Maurice Low in a lecture at Yale said that newspaper reporters are "men of trivial minds without perspective and without education." We infer that Mr. Low is not exactly pleased with the reports of his speeches that have appeared in the newspapers.

A passenger on a New York street car has discovered the way to deal with the hatpin peril. When the points of two came perilously near his eyes he snipped them off with a pair of pliers. A pair of pliers will now be the equipment of every man who is so fond of his eyesight that he is blind to consequences.

Thirteen per cent of college girls in a Wisconsin university have been found to be flat-footed. There is no doubt whatever that this is an unlucky percentage, and science is to be asked what it is going to do about it. The higher education is not worth such apparently dire effects.

A Hungarian doctor has succeeded in transplanting living hair to bald heads. Here is a real benefactor to the human race who makes a whole wig grow where no hairs grew before.

Concerning a red-hot meteor that fell through the roof of a house, a correspondent explains that it was cooled off with water. Evidently he wishes to make it clear that it didn't take place in Milwaukee.

# CLEARING SAGE BRUSH

Cheapest and Best Way Is to Use Gang Plow.

Leveling Land for Irrigation Is Next Important Step—Preliminary Survey Should Be Made to Determine the Slope.

Land covered with scattering sage brush can be cleared in several ways. If the soil is soft and not too stony, the cheapest and best way is to plow the sagebrush out. Take a 16-inch riding plow—a gang plow is better—remove the mold boards and use only the share and landside of the plow. Keep the share sharp and in sharpening it draw the point down a little so that it will hold well in the soil. This plow will cut off most of the brush without turning it under, because the mold boards have been removed. After the soil has been plowed, the next step is to rake up the sagebrush. In this case the rake need not be so substantially made as for use on land which has been railed or dragged. Often a strong sulky horse rake will suffice.

If the land is level and a hay crop is to be seeded, no further plowing is necessary, although it generally pays in the long run to plow after clearing, if economies of time or money do not interfere. In any event we would give a disking and a cross-dragging to fine the surface. Land covered with short, scrubby sagebrush is cleared most cheaply by grubbing out with a mattock or grub hoe. A mattock drawn out thin and wide on its hoe side is preferable. Sagebrush has only one main or tap root and the blow should be so directed as to strike it about an inch under the surface where it will cut off easily. It is a simple matter to rake up the brush cleared by hand and an ordinary hay rake will do the work satisfactorily. Land cleared by hand will be difficult to plow because all the roots have been left in the ground. The plow will have to cut them off and the roots will later inconvenience the rancher by clogging up the harrow.

There are other methods of clearing sagebrush and many machines have been invented for the purpose. A number of these are successful, but the ordinary man who has a limited acreage to clear finds it inexpedient to tie up too much of his capital in machinery of this kind. It costs \$6 or \$8 an acre to clear and plow sagebrush land. Leveling new land after the sagebrush is cleared off is a hard process to reduce to adequate description, as the leveling depends upon the nature of the tract and to give the general rules about the work would be only touching the high places. However, there are a few salient features that can be laid down as general axioms. The first of these is that water will not run up hill and the second is that it will run down hill. This seems simple but is not as simple as it seems.

Water turned into a ditch that has too much fall will cut the soil away and will pass through so rapidly that it will not scrape out well on the sides. The whole proposition in leveling is to strike the happy medium between these two extremes. Small lumps should be taken off with a drag or float. This instrument is generally made of two 2x6's or 2x8's, thirty feet long for side pieces, placed on edge ten or twelve feet apart, to which is attached three cross boards, one near each end of the side pieces, and the third near the middle. The boards near the ends should not extend below the edges of the side pieces, while the middle board should extend an inch or so below the side pieces. The position of these cross boards will depend upon the soil as they must be arranged so as not to clog nor dig in so deep as to make it impossible to pull. Four to six horses will be required to haul this drag.

The small knolls and bumps having been smoothed down, the next step is to decide which way across the land the water is to be run. It is not possible to determine this with the naked eye, and a preliminary survey should be made to determine the general slope. In leveling with the drag there will not be excessive hauling of dirt if the tract is to be leveled to the draw, which means that the natural contour of the land will be adhered to as closely as possible. The laterals will not run straight with the compass, but the water will be taken out of the head ditches along the crest of the ridge and turned into the small ditches which, running at the proper fall, will take the water over the land and discharge it into the waste ditches after the soil has been watered.

## Selecting Sheep.

The time to determine what sheep to keep is during shearing; then the owner, by directing and overseeing operations, can cause to be marked such as are light shearers, aged sheep, in poor condition, without lambs, etc., and in the ordinary flocks, allowing that one-third be sold. It is more than probable that the value of the two-thirds remaining, the flock to be kept, will bring as good an income and be, in reality, worth as much as if the inferior sheep remained to lower the standard of the lot.

Soil Fertility. Besides keeping more and better animals, more attention should be paid to such crops as restore the fertility of the soil. The chief among these are clover and alfalfa.

# GETTING READY FOR ORCHARD

Much More Needed for Ultimate Success Than Mere Planting—Selection of Ground Important.

The nursery stock is beginning to arrive for the new orchard plantations and it would seem that the usual number of fruit trees are to be set out this spring. In growing a commercial orchard, the experience is much and varied. There are so many conditions prevailing that close and diligent study is quite essential. To grow a good orchard, much more is needed than the planting, says the Denver Field and Farm. We must first familiarize ourselves with the character and nature of soil and trees, the prevailing winds as we call them, the different altitudes and last but not least, the perplexing problem of cause and effect, the last of which embodies natural laws in their simplest form.

The first step is the selection of the ground. The first choice is a northern exposure, the second, a western, and the third an eastern, and last a southern. To prepare the ground, clean, plow and level it thoroughly in such manner that there will never be high and low spots in the direction of the irrigating furrows. All plowing and preparing ought to be done in summer, and fall previous to planting. A broad, deep furrow is made with a large lister or two single plows, a left hand and right hand bolted together. Attach four horses and go several times, through the same row in opposite directions, but not all the same day. Just before planting go once again in the furrows to pulverize the soil. All this can be done very rapidly. The trees should be so planted that in after years they will be accessible and convenient for all purposes. This means that no trees should ever be planted on a square.

By having the trees wide apart the way the irrigation furrows are to run, always gives ample room to cultivate; irrigate, pick, spray, haul out, etc. If the land is so that the irrigating furrows run north and south, the wide rows should be from east to west and close in the row north and south. This occurs most frequently in Colorado. By this means the sun gets full action on the ground and trees on the east side in the morning and on the west side in the afternoon. While the distances may be varied, the most convenient for apples are 16 by 27 feet, 16 by 32 or 16 by 28; peaches, plums and cherries, 14 by 20 or 16 by 20 feet; pears, 16 by 24 feet. When the rows are furrowed out the wide way, rig up something with a team to cross the furrows, and by driving straight to stakes, make the marks for two rows at one time and the work is quickly done. Then it is a very simple matter to dig out the tree holes at the intersections, and if this is done in the fall or early winter so as to catch later frosts so much the better.

## Where the Hog Originated.

The hog existed in a wild state on the continents of Europe, Asia and Africa, but none in Australia or North and South America. The peccary is a hoglike animal existing in a wild state in the two Americas, but the true hog was imported to this country. All known breeds of hogs, are descended from the wild forms and are the result of the skill of the breeder.—Kansas Farmer.

# LIVE STOCK NOTES

Change the hog nesting frequently. It is not wise to let the lambs shift for themselves with older sheep. Use a scrub sire and your herd will soon run all to nose and bristles.

Sheep delight in eating sweet clover, and it keeps them in a thrifty condition.

A runty pig is more the result of neglect by its owner than of breed or birth.

Have a care how you feed corn to hogs on full feed that is considerably wormy.

Do not be in too much of a hurry to force a horse's coat to shed in the spring.

If the horses do not shed their heavy coats before hard work begins, better clip them.

Regular, systematic feeding should be practiced with hogs, just the same as with any other stock.

Brood sows require a mixed diet and one containing plenty of protein and not too fattening quality.

Though hogs are proverbially dirty animals, they enjoy clean drinking water as much as the other stock.

A big, hot bran mash, with a pint of flax seed jelly, once a week will help the horses to shed their winter coats.

A chilly hog takes on fat very slowly, his rations going toward maintaining bodily heat instead of producing flesh.

If you want to know the dollar-and-cents difference between pure-bred and scrub hogs, try shaping up one of each kind and selling them.

Hogs in the fattening pen should be supplied with large quantities of clean, pure water. It is required to properly digest and assimilate dry feed like corn.

You cannot reasonably expect a hog to do his best on a single grain ration, any more than you would expect a horse to keep in good flesh and do the maximum amount of work if fed on hay alone.

While clean, dry bedding is essential in the hog house, the matter can be overdone. If there is sufficient nesting material for the hogs to crawl into it and cover up completely, they will chill when they come out.

# WASHINGTON GOSSIP

## Cat Warns Man of Burglar's Presence



WASHINGTON.—A remarkable tomcat belonging to Joseph Brown, proprietor of a small merchandise store, routed a burglar from the place early one morning recently after a novel performance which proves the cat to be possessed of more than ordinary feline intelligence. The robber carried away about \$15 worth of goods, but the proprietor considers himself fortunate, at that, and gives all the credit to "Tom."

Mr. Brown, his wife and several children live in the adjoining dwelling. They retired before midnight, and about half-past three the next morning, when all the occupants were asleep, somebody cut several slats out of a shutter at the rear of the house and climbed through the window. The cat was downstairs and heard the noise. It made several trips upstairs, mewing and scratching at its master's bedspread until it awakened him. Mr. Brown hesitated for a while, but finally descended the stairs with a loaded revolver, but the robber had fled through a side door opening on V street.

"The cat jumped up on my bed and awoke me," said Mr. Brown. "It mewed and scratched, but at first I paid little attention to it and dozed off again. The cat had gone downstairs, but soon came back and sprang on the bed again and went on terribly. Still I did not realize what had occurred. Tom made another trip downstairs, and came running right back, making more 'fuss' than before, and I then 'tumbled.'"

"I told my wife there must be somebody in the house. I sat up and listened. I thought I heard a footstep downstairs, and got out of bed. The house was dark throughout, and I hesitated to go downstairs under the circumstances. In a few minutes, however, I got out my pistol and made a light in my room. Then I went downstairs and struck a light in the store. There was nobody there. From there I went back to the dining room, and found a window and door open. But nobody was in sight. 'Tom' accompanied me through the place."

A lot of aprons, handkerchiefs and stockings were missed by Mrs. Brown. While he was searching downstairs, Mrs. Clara Brown, his wife, blew a shrill whistle at an upper window to attract a policeman, and aroused the neighborhood. An officer came along about 3:45 o'clock, according to Mr. Brown. The police have no clew to the identity of the robber.

## How Governor Hogg was Once Tricked

IT was very seldom that any political opponent of the late Gov. Jim Hogg, the far-famed Texas statesman, ever took a trick from that wily gentleman, and yet I remember an occasion where a slick Republican bested him," said Capt. George D. Canby of Galveston the other day.



"They were having a joint debate, and Hogg was denouncing the Republicans for their policy of absorbing the Philippines. He poured in the hot shot, and the long-haired Texans gave vent to their approval by shrieks and vociferous yells. He said he knew his honorable opponent would attempt to defend his party when it came his turn to speak. The audience was then and there warned that his opponent was entirely ignorant of the subject—so ignorant that he could not name ten out of the thousand or more islands constituting the Philippine archipelago. Hogg repeated the assertion and challenged his opponent to give the names of any ten of the whole group.

"All this time the Republican had been doing some quick thinking. He did not, as a matter of fact, know the name of a single island in the Philippines, except, perhaps, Luzon, but he was also satisfied that Jim Hogg was no whit better informed. At that time the conquest of the Philippines was new and hardly anybody was enlight-

ened regarding them. Thinking this over, our Republican orator had an inspiration. He didn't know the names, but neither did his challenger, and therefore, a bluff might go. The names of the islands were unquestionably Spanish. What was to hinder him from enumerating the names of certain brands of imported cigars that came ready to memory?"

Thus it was that when his turn came to speak he met the deaf of his foe with absolute serenity. Governor Hogg was the most astonished man in the big audience, while he listened to the other man rattle off, not ten, but twenty, fine-sounding Spanish words which were given as names of islands, but were in reality only brands of cigars. Being a fair and honest citizen, when the speaker finished, the governor arose, and making a courtly bow, apologized for his mistake. 'I am sorry to have misrepresented my friend,' said Hogg. 'He has far more knowledge of the Philippines than I supposed, and I ask his pardon.'"

## Starving Natives of Kiangsu Eat Bark



FOUR men dead of starvation in 55 homes visited, only one family in eight with any rice or grain, the rest living on sweet potato leaves, carrot tops and elm bark, and four months yet to harvest—such is the report of Earl H. Cressy, who was sent by the Central China relief committee to ascertain present conditions in a portion of the famine area. His report in part is as follows:

"It was thought best to investigate as closely as possible a limited area which might be taken as typical, and for this purpose the township of Lupi was selected. It is 55 li north by east from Esingkiangsu in the northern part of the province of Kiangsu.

"The township of Lupi extends 16 li from north to south, is 17 li from east to west, and thus contains roughly 25 English square miles. In it dwell

2,700 families, aggregating 14,000 individuals, so that the population is over 500 to the square mile. This sample famine district contains about one-half of one per cent. of the total area and population now famine stricken in China.

"The method followed was to assemble the family and count and question them, and then thoroughly to examine every part of the house, looking into the cooking vessels on the stove to see what was in preparation, and then using an electric flashlight to go through all baskets, jars and boxes where food was likely to be kept. These were all country people, who seldom have money on hand, so the supply of food actually on the premises is a good indication of their condition.

"A straw stack indicates that there has been a crop. I found straw in four yards—one in thirteen. Grain was found in only seven houses out of fifty-five, and in no place over a peck of it.

About one out of every three were eating elm bark, which they prepare by reducing it to a fine sawdust and then making it into cakes.

## Society Girls in "First Aid" Work

AFTER a rest during Lent, and participation in the Easter season following, many of Washington's society young women have taken up "first aid" work.



Miss Helen Taft, who is practical above all things else, has joined a class of "first aid" recently organized as a sort of branch of the National Red Cross, the purpose of which is to teach these young persons emergency tactics. In fact, there are two classes, one of which meets on Tuesdays in the Army dispensary and another on Wednesdays in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas T. Gaff. Maj. Matthew A. Dulaney, U. S. A. medical corps, Mrs. Taft's physician, is instructing the Tuesday class, and Dr. Jung has the Wednesday meetings in hand.

Many of the girls have become deeply interested in Red Cross work, particularly the emergency field, and some have gone so far as to pledge their services as nurses should they be

needed. Miss Laura Merriam has told her friends that if a war in which the United States is involved breaks out anywhere she will give up all the pleasures of social life and go to the front. Miss Merriam is among the most enthusiastic members of the "first aid" classes. Others who are learning how to make bandages and adjust them according to rules of medical science include Miss Dorothy Williams, Miss Jeanette Allen, Miss Julia Heyl, Miss Marion Oliver, Miss Sallie Garlington, Miss Mary McCauley and a number of others who do not confine their entire activities to the ballroom and afternoon teas.

# IN CRITICAL CONDITION.

Spokane, Wash., Woman Endures Terrible Suffering.

Mrs. J. A. Schoonmaker, 127 S. Pine St., Spokane, Wash., says: "I grew so weak I could scarcely do my housework and was often confined to bed. There was a bearing-down pain through my hips and my head ached as if it would split. I knew by the kidney secretions that my kidneys were in a terrible condition but though I doctored, I gradually grew worse, until in critical condition. It was then I began using Doan's Kidney Pills and was entirely cured. I have not had a sign of kidney trouble since."



"When Your Back Is Lame, Remember the Name—DOAN'S." 50c all stores Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

The Ruling Passion. Little Willie was an embryo electrician. Anything relating to his favorite study possessed absorbing interest for him. One day his mother appeared in a new gray gown, the jacket of which was trimmed in flat black buttons showing an outer circle of the light dress material. Willie studied the gown critically for a moment, then the light of strong approval dawned in his eyes. "Oh, mamma," he cried, "what a pretty new dress! It's all trimmed in push buttons."—Judge.

Very Different. "Is it true that your daughter intends to study for the stage?" "No, she hasn't any such ideas. What she intends to do is become an actress."

In the Chase. Gink—Your son is pursuing his studies at college, isn't he? Dink—I guess so. He's always behind.—Judge.

Not Telling All of It. "Does your fiance know your age, Lottie?" "Well, partly."

The system takes kindly to nature's laxative, Garfield Tea, which is mild in action and always effective.

The more promises a man makes the more he doesn't keep.

## ARE YOU POORLY

Poor health and a general run-down condition is the outcome of a spell of stomach trouble;

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